









The British ship of war, *Argus*, Commander A. M. Farquhar, arrived here this afternoon from Port Hamilton.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co., the Agents, have sent us a copy of the prospectus of the Straits Fire Insurance Co., Limited, an institution which it is proposed to work in conjunction with the Straits Insurance Co.

The Agent of the Austro-Hungarian Lloyd's S. N. Co. informs us that the *St. Ferdinand*, which was detained in Bombay owing to an accident to her engines, left Colombo on the 20th inst., and is expected here on or about the 11th August.

In the match between the Hongkong C. C. and the Navy begun at the Cricket Ground to-day, the Navy went to the wickets first and made a score of 87 with one man absent to bat. The Hongkong Club had scored 33 with none out when play ceased. The highest score was that of Lieut. de Robeck, who made 32.

Two Chinese junkmen arrived in the Colony today who reported that their junk, laden with sugar and bound from Swatow to Hongkong, had been captured near Swatow, and that out of a crew of sixteen they were only persons who had reached the shore alive. The men say they walked overland to this Colony from the place where they landed.

We have to acknowledge receipt of a pamphlet on the Silver Question by Professor Nicholson from Mr. Jeffries, the Acting Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. The pamphlet has been issued by the Bimetallic League, and the contents originally appeared in the *Notesman* when Professor Nicholson, who occupies the chair of Political Economy in the University of Edinburgh, had no connection with the League. We have not yet had time to peruse the paper, and we may have something to say about them at some future date.

The *N. O. Daily News*, apparently copying the *Shanghai Courier*, says: "We understand that Shao Tzu-tai will return from Hongkong at an early date, nothing having been effected by the Opium Commission. Shao has been appointed Provincial Judge in Hunan." Though the new appointment which has been given to Shao is promotion in point of dignity, it is like the Irishman's rise in point of emolument, a fact which, we believe, is bitterly regretted by Shao and his friends. The Tao-tai of Shanghai, which Shao at present holds, is one of the most lucrative appointments in the Empire.

Mr. Mackenzie heard this afternoon the case against Fung Leung Shau, a licensed pork dealer who was fined two days ago \$200 for exposing for sale a quantity of unwholesome pork. Mr. Mossop stated on behalf of the accused that he was absent at the time and was not aware of what his man was doing. There was a difference, also, between this case and the one on the previous day, inasmuch as this pig had been beheaded in the usual way and had not died from disease. Inspector Lee admitted that there were some mitigating circumstances and His Worship reduced the fine to \$100.

General Mosely writes from Canton with reference to a statement made in a Chinese note which appeared in our issue of the 15th inst., to the effect that he has received permission from H. B. M.'s Government to accept the rank of Major-General in the Chinese Army, together with the Manchurian Order of the *Po-fu*, the decoration of a peacock's feather, and the right to such rank and titles for three generations. We are heartily glad to hear it, and have no doubt that the author of "Chinese Notes" will take an early opportunity of referring to this statement. We wish the General long life and health to enjoy his titles and decorations.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—At Chemulpo, Corea, large quantities of rice are being imported from Nagasaki, Japan, the selling price of which, about \$4 per picul, is doubtless a source of good profit to the importers.

The Korean rice crops proved an utter failure last season and this is the cause of the large import just now; and, irrespective of the inflowing of Japan grain, is likely to be augmented with some 25,000 piculs from Wuhu and Yangtze ports.

A disease has broken out amongst the natives of Chemulpo, Seoul and Fusan which causes considerable mortality; it, however, does not appear to be infectious. Some eight years ago, subsequent to a failure of the crops (such as there was last season) and the consequent partial famine and distress, a similar calamity befell Corea.

On June 19 in the Spanish Congress, Senator Monro (Cuba) demanded Home Rule for that island, a proposal which was rejected. A complete decentralization as far as Spanish authority over Cuba was concerned. The debate was continued on June 20, when Senator Camero, Minister for the Colonies, reminded the Chamber of the great sacrifices which the mother country had always made for its colonial children—maintaining, among other proofs of this, the Cuban loan, and concluded by pointing that all useful reforms should have the earnest attention of the Government. He declared, however, that no Spanish Government would ever grant Cuba and Puerto Rico autonomy. The Home Rule amendment was finally rejected by 217 to 17.

As our relations with China are now daily becoming closer and our political future and hers depend to a certain extent on the one upon the other, any appointment of importance in the Government of India ought to attract considerable attention in this Colony. We therefore feel a good deal of interest in the appointment of General George C. Chesney, C.B., to the Military Secretaryship of the Indian Government, the news of which arrived here yesterday. General Chesney, if we mistake not, is the son of the Colonel Chesney who commanded the Euphrates Valley Expedition. In his early days in India, we heard of him as an accountant to the Government, then as the author of *Indian Policy*, *The Battle of Dorking* and other works, and, finally, as Military Secretary to the Viceroy Lord Ripon. Some months ago *The Times* discussed at length the advisability of placing General Chesney in the Government of India as Military Secretary and argued the case in his favour with arguments which were for *The Times* unusually strong, and it may be taken for granted that the country will have no cause to regret the appointment of this officer, who is an official of tested ability and of great experience in Indian affairs.

Tax *Chung-wei sangpu* had yesterday an able leader written after reading the Provincial Treasurer Hsiao's lately-published exhortation to be careful of written paper. It seems that official is not above pandering to an absurd superstition, and the article begins by a satirical statement of the rare blessings which might result from a general observance of the rule "revertently to care for written paper." It then points out two great causes of respect to written paper, namely the practice of collecting old paper to be burned up in dirty water and made up again, or to be used for shoes of shoes for men and women to put their feet on, and the system of gambling by lottery tickets which is licensed, and by which hundreds of thousands of sheets of printed paper are thrown away with anything but respect, by the losers especially. Those who have the proper respect for the written or printed characters, will show it without the Treasurer's exhortation; and probably none of the others will be influenced at all by a mere word of exhortation from His Excellency. He ought to take measures, which a man in his position could easily do, if he were in earnest, having the whole gambling business under his control, to oblige all persons employed in distributing tickets and making gambling books to collect them with care, and have them respectfully burnt. This could be done at a small cost to the Treasurer; and might effectively prevent much sin against the inventors of the characters. Of course the writer means to say, *Make the sin of gambling and the disrespect to the characters shown in using them for such a purpose.* It is a well-known skit at those who strain at the gnat and swallow the camel.

The Government of India has granted \$50,000 to the Italian Consul at Mandalay (M. Andreani), on account of services rendered by him before the outbreak of the Burmah War. To this gentleman the Government of India is mainly indebted for the exposure of the French intrigues at Mandalay. He furnished the Government with a copy of the secret treaty sent by Theobald to Paris. Had it been discovered at the time, the British ultimatum and the approach of the British forces would certainly have paid the penalty with his head. But he succeeded in outwitting M. Hae, and in throwing dust into the eyes of the Burmese up to the very last.

The *N. O. Daily News*, in a recent issue says:—Yesterday we gave an extract from the *China Mail* referring to a large turtle which was captured in Hongkong harbour, purchased from the capturer by Chinese and released by him, because the creature is a protected animal. Turtles are held in great veneration by the natives, though to call a man "a turtle's leg" is to grossly insult him. The *Yuan* (a large kind of turtle) is, according to popular belief, capable of causing considerable havoc among shipping, for instance by raising storms, though instances in old history are recorded of a *Yuan* being a benefactor to individuals. In a noted naval engagement on the Poyang Lake in the thirteenth century a *Yuan* shielded the disabled junk of one of the combatants while the damaged rudder was repaired, and thus enabled the commander to escape the fight and reach his enemy's camp. In a noted naval engagement on the Poyang Lake in the thirteenth century a *Yuan* shielded the disabled junk of one of the combatants while the damaged rudder was repaired, and thus enabled the commander to escape the fight and reach his enemy's camp.

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Mr. C. T. Gardner, H.B.M.'s Consul at Hankow, writes to the *N. O. Daily News* with reference to a paragraph which appeared in the *Shanghai Courier* and which we reproduced as follows:—

Sir,—My attention has been called to a paragraph headed "Shame" in a certain sheet published at Shanghai. The paragraph relates to the fight and capture of a *Yuan* being a benefactor to individuals. In a noted naval engagement on the Poyang Lake in the thirteenth century a *Yuan* shielded the disabled junk of one of the combatants while the damaged rudder was repaired, and thus enabled the commander to escape the fight and reach his enemy's camp.

Mr. Martin's funeral was conducted with all due ceremony and reverence; the coffin was carried to the cemetery, the customary obsequies of a species of gun-carriage being used in the funeral here, the beautiful English funeral service was read by the Rev. Mr. Bonney, the grave was dug in the same manner as graves are usually dug in the same sacred ground as is used for the last resting place of our other departed friends. The time of the funeral was 10 o'clock a.m.—the time usually fixed on here in honour on account of the great. When the coffin arrived at the cemetery gate, it was carried by foreigners from the carriage to the grave.

According to the *N. O. Daily News*, Mr. Fenton, the Shanghai organist, who recently gave a concert in Foochow on behalf of the Foochow Native Hospital, was presented with a handsome cigar cabinet in Foochow before he left for Australia in the *African* on the 18th.

The Chinese Minister to Japan (says the *N. O. Daily News*) is evidently anxious to be assigned to road-making work on one of the potential frontiers of China, if the following extract from the *Chong Ching* is not a brilliant piece of imagination:—"It is reported that the Chinese Minister has applied to the Chinese Association to teach dancing to his lady, and the wives of the secretaries in the Legation." The Minister to England who preceded the Marquis Tsiang, Kwo Sung-tse, is supposed to have been disgraced on his return because he allowed his wife to go to balls in London; and doubts have been expressed whether the prestige of the Marquis Tsiang's name was sufficient to protect him from the attack of some Chinese official, when he returns to Peking; but it is incredible that a Chinese Minister, so near to China as Japan is, should ask to have his wife and the wives of his secretaries taught to "mingle in the mazy." Can it be that we shall some day hear of him being given the Palace at Peking to celebrate the opening of the first railway and that the Empress Dowager led the coffin with the British Minister?

A CORRESPONDENT signing himself "Kamazin" writes to the *Shanghai Mercury* of 24th inst. as follows:—

Dear Sir,—In your last evening's issue you mention, as a rumour, that the King of Hawaii wishes to become Emperor of Polynesia. Now it is no rumour, but a fact. The mighty Kalkana I, who has neither fleet, army, nor dollars at his disposal, really desires to become Protector of the various groups of islands in the South Pacific.

It is not many years since the king sent a "Lord High Commissioner" (who at present is in London) to the chief of the Hawaiian Islands to make peace with the King and to agree to you that great and friendly Powers of Europe, jointly with the United States of America, have evinced sympathy with the policy of my Government, that Hawaii should be permitted to exercise an influence in Polynesia to which she is entitled by her position, by superior opportunities and position. This influence I desire to have exercised in the political guidance and instruction of sister Polynesian communities, with the view to the promotion in them of civilized forms of Government, and the securing for them of an assured future.

What is meant by that independence is, of course, to be dependent on Hawaii, which has quite enough to do to take care of itself, without taking care of others.

The First Annual Report of the Ocean Government Hospital, written by Dr. H. N. Allen, who with Dr. W. H. Ross conducted the institution, has been sent to the *N. O. Daily News*, which gives the following interesting summary of its contents:—"It appears from the Report that the Hospital was founded in April, 1885, a similar institution having been in existence for hundreds of years, and was opened under preliminary arrangements by the King, to the effect that people from all the provinces would be treated. It has been very successful; large and increasing numbers of people of all ranks, from Queen's Maids downwards having been treated. Mental diseases were the most common form of sickness, and the most common complaint, and skin diseases were seen in all varieties, in short, says the Report, 'all the diseases commonly known are seen here with modifications, and some uncommon ones, such as Beri-beri and Melanosis.' The people seem to respond to the treatment, and the hospital is a success. They do not behave as well after surgical operations as the Chinese do, 'probably because they eat more meat and drink stronger wine than do the Chinese.' The native mode of treatment is borrowed from the Chinese; quite a number of native doctors have visited the hospital, and the most common complaint, and skin diseases were seen in all varieties, in short, says the Report, 'all the diseases commonly known are seen here with modifications, and some uncommon ones, such as Beri-beri and Melanosis.' The people seem to respond to the treatment, and the hospital is a success. They do not behave as well after surgical operations as the Chinese do, 'probably because they eat more meat and drink stronger wine than do the Chinese.' 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Alex. McNeil	4	c Alberle	Ger.	bq.e	908	July	21	Wieler & Co.	New York
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India	6	n Nial	Amer.	sh.	1650	June	12	Melchers & Co.	
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Oasis	5	c Reynolds	Amer.	bq.e	336	April	14	Arnhold, Kerberg & Co.	
Pactolu	3	c Burnham	Amer.	sh.	815	June	2	Arnhold, Kerberg & Co.	
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Revolving Light	8	c Durkes	Brit.	sh.	1161	July	2	Order	
R. R. Thomas	8	c Nichols	Amer.	sh.					
St. Stephen	4	k Douglas	Amer.	str					
Stepha	10	Mersench	Ger.	sh.					
Wandering Minstrel	5	k Hudson	Brit.	bj.tin.					
W. Le Lachour	6	c Weith	Brit.	bq.e					
Xenia	9	c Reynolds	Amer.	bq.e					
Zentur	10	Soper	Amer.	sh.					

Vorish	Rustan gunboat	-	-	-	Commander Mozharsky	Vladivostok
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